

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 8, 2008

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE.

Chairperson Lempert convened the meeting at 11:10 a.m. In addition to Chairperson Lempert, the following Committee members were in attendance: Commissioners Chu, Dodd, Giacomini, Haggerty, Halsted, Spering, Worth and Yeager. Also in attendance was Commissioner Tissier.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Committee unanimously approved the following items on the consent calendar:

- Minutes of January 11, 2008 Committee Meeting
- Contract Amendment - Freeway Service Patrol: Bill's Towing (\$331,000) and Yarbrough Brothers Towing (\$191,000)
- Contract Amendment – Regional Transportation Emergency Operations Plan: URS Corporation (\$200,000)
- Contract Amendment – TransLink[®] Marketing, Web, and Communications Services: Swirl, Inc. (\$355,000)
- SAFE Financial Statements for December 2007.

Funding Agreement – Implement Ramp Metering Corridors: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)

Jeff Georgevich, MTC staff, presented a proposed funding agreement to expedite the activation of ramp meters on Highways 85, 87 and 101 in Santa Clara County. Based on Caltrans existing staffing levels, it would take up to 3 years for Caltrans to be able to activate the ramp meters. VTA has agreed to expedite the project by being the contracting agent, bringing in consultant assistance to do the majority of the work to activate the corridors. Maps of the area were provided to Committee members.

Commissioner Chu noted that Route 87 showed up on the map as needing to be serviced, and asked if that was included as part of the project. Mr. Georgevich responded that all of the metering lights on Route 87 will need to be timed and that they are included in the project.

Mr. Georgevich requested the Committee's authorization to enter into a funding agreement with Santa Clara County VTA in an amount not to exceed \$2,051,000, to activate existing ramp metering equipment on 3 freeway corridors, Routes 87, 85, and 101.

Mr. John Ristow of VTA expressed his support for the funding agreement and interest in working with MTC on the ramp metering lights.

Commission Sperring moved to support the staff recommendation. Commissioner Worth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Incident Management Program Update

Danielle Stanislaus, MTC staff, briefed Committee on the incident management program activities currently underway in the region. She noted that with traffic congestion continuing to rise, and with newer ITS technologies being developed, MTC, CHP, and Caltrans have taken active roles in exploring new tools and strategies to improve incident detection, verification, response, clearance, and recovery efforts. Many of the new incident management strategies will be tested on the I-880 corridor, prior to moving towards a full-scale, regional deployment.

Ms. Stanislaus briefed Committee members on the new and enhanced incident management strategies aimed at 1) improving incident detection, assessment, verification, and response; 2) increasing coordination, communication, and cooperation amongst all agencies; and 3) increasing communication with the public regarding incidents and recommended actions.

Chair Lempert expressed her concern that the I-880 tests are only a pilot project, and staff will have to wait for the results before applying the practices to other corridors in the region.

Commissioner Tissier asked if staff coordinates with the Offices of Emergency Services in the different counties. Albert Yee, Director of Highway and Arterial Operations, responded that MTC does have a very close working relationship with the county OES offices, primarily in emergency planning. As staff begins to work in the incident management arena, MTC will have closer ties with individual local responders to develop ways to disseminate the information.

Mr. Yee also responded to Chair Lempert's question about how quickly these strategies can be deployed. He noted that one of the next highlights for T-2035 is the Freeway Performance Initiative, which is where staff hopes that this Committee will approve funding to roll out the rest of the instrumentation that is needed on the freeway system.

Public Comment/Other Business/Next Meeting/Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m. The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 14, 2008 at 9:45 a.m., Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, California.